

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 12, 2015

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Commission Focuses on Missouri's Bridge Needs

by Robert Brendel

The number of Missouri bridges in poor condition is expected to increase dramatically over the next decade as state funding declines, State Bridge Engineer Dennis Heckman told the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on Tuesday.

Missouri's highways currently have about 600 bridges in critical condition that aren't in the state's five-year plan for improvements. That number is projected to rise to 1,500 in 10 years. Additionally the state has 1,400 bridges that have weight restrictions.

Heckman said five bridges in the state are currently closed because of their deteriorating condition. Work is underway to replace two of those structures, but the other three are closed indefinitely because of a lack of funds. Without additional investment, Heckman expects the number of closed bridges to grow in the future.

The most recent closure was on Route T over the Thomas Hill Reservoir in Macon County, where a suspected overweight vehicle opened up a hole in the deck, exposing a crushed girder beneath. Commissioner Michael Pace said he was concerned about overweight vehicles and efforts to increase weight limits above 80,000 pounds.

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols said, "We're not opposed to increasing weight limits, but it has to be in concert with having the resources to replace these bad bridges."

Louisiana Mayor Bart Niedner made the situation personal as he talked to the Commission about the Champ Clark Bridge that carries U.S. Route 54 over the Mississippi River. The 87-year-old span requires constant maintenance. It's at the top of MoDOT's priority list for replacement, but unaffordable in the current funding environment. The estimated cost of a new bridge is \$60 million, to be split between Illinois and Missouri. Illinois has already committed its share, but Nichols said that could be in jeopardy if Missouri can't do the same.

The bridge is just one bad inspection away from being closed, and Niedner cited dozens of examples of how residents and businesses rely on the bridge. "If we lose the bridge, that would all but eliminate Louisiana's potential for economic growth," he said.

OTHER ITEMS

Legislative Committee – Vice Chairman Joe Carmichael said he was excited about the possibilities offered by Senator Doug Libla's Senate Bill 540, which seeks to raise the state's fuel tax by two cents each of the next three years, and thereafter ties the rate to the Consumer Price Index to guard against inflation. "It doesn't close the (funding) gap (completely), but it's a move in the right direction," he said. Chairman Stephen Miller added, "We can't afford to miss this opportunity. The Legislature must act this session or we stand to lose hundreds of millions in federal funds."

Consideration of Bids for Transportation Improvements – State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter reported to the Commission the results of the February 20 bid opening. MoDOT received 146 bids on 44 calls, including one project with local funding. The Commission awarded all to the low bidder. Schroeter also reported that awards to date in fiscal year 2015 are running 1.7 percent under budget.

Work Zone Awareness – State Traffic and Highway Safety Engineer Eileen Rackers briefed the Commission on the department's plans for work zone safety in 2015, emphasizing three focus areas: moving operations like striping, patching and sweeping, work zone management and distracted driving. Work Zone Awareness Week will be March 23-27, and this year's theme is "Pay Attention or Pay the Price."



Commission Leadership – Commission Chairman Miller and Vice Chairman Carmichael will continue in those roles for the next year, as the commission’s two most senior members from different political partners in keeping with statute. The Commission also voted on its representatives to the Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation board of directors (Miller and Gregg Smith) and the MoDOT and Patrol Employees’ Retirement System board of trustees (Carmichael and Michael Pace).

Pay Attention in Work Zones - Or Pay the Price!

by Linda Wilson-Horn

National Work Zone Awareness Week is March 23-27 and MoDOT is reminding motorists to slow down and pay attention as they drive past work zones. Not all work zones look alike. Work zones can be moving operations, such as striping, patching or mowing. They can also be short term, temporary lane closures to make quick repairs or remove debris from the roadway.



Driver inattention was the second highest case of work zone crashes in 2014. Driving too closely was number one. The average text takes five seconds to read. Traveling at 55 mph, you will travel more than the length of a football field- blindfolded! MoDOT’s slow moving maintenance operations move as slow as 10 mph and if you aren’t paying attention to the road, you will come up on the closed lane very quickly.

On Monday, March 23, employees are invited to wear orange for work zone awareness to kick off the

week. Throughout the week, districts will be hosting a variety of news media events and availability to highlight the dangers of work zones and the need for drivers to pay attention and slow down.

Work zone safety is a serious matter. Check out these statistics:

- In 2014, seven people were killed in work zone crashes on state system routes and an additional two on the local system, for a total of nine fatalities.
- Between 2010 and 2014, 46 people were killed in work zone crashes on state system routes and an additional seven on the local system, for a total of 53 fatalities
- Between 2010 and 2014, 2,614 people were injured in Missouri work zones on state system routes and an additional 733 on the local system, for a total of 3,347 injuries.
- Since 2000, 16 MoDOT employees have been killed in the line of duty.
- In 2014, 62 percent of vehicle occupant fatalities were not wearing a seat belt.
- The best defense in a work zone crash, or any crash, is a seat belt.



Click above to watch MoDOT’s public service announcement for this year’s Work Zone Awareness Week.

MoDOT’s public service announcement for 2015 and other materials are available online at modot.org/workzones/index.htm.

Team Talk - Celebrating Women in the Workforce

by Roberta Broeker

It seems like spring has sprung here in Missouri, but as a life-long Missourian, I know it could snow next week and that would seem completely normal (I’m talking to you, Don Wichern). Let’s hope this isn’t the case and spring is here to stay!

While I bet you did notice the warm weather this past weekend, you may have missed an international event that occurred on Sunday. March 8 was International Women’s Day. Each year this day is set aside to celebrate the achievements of women and to call for greater equality among genders. The United Nations has recognized March 8 as International Women’s Day ever since International Women’s Year, which was 1975.

I am proud to say here at MoDOT we are almost three percent above what the Missouri 2010 Census report shows as the number of



Click above to watch "Girls Do Science?" video.

women available for employment. Many Missourians might view MoDOT as a man's world, with so many careers focused on engineering and maintenance. But the facts show that simply isn't true.

Have you seen the Microsoft video "Girls Do Science?" It says seven out of ten young women are interested in science, but only two out of ten will pursue it as a career. If you would like to watch the video you can do so by clicking this link: "[Girls Do Science?](#)" Watching this video made me proud I know so many women who have pursued a career that many think is just for the guys. In doing so, we inspire future generations of women. I'm here to tell you. Women do math. Women do science.

When I came to work at MoDOT in 1998, there were almost no women on the senior management team. But one of the most influential people on the senior management team at that time was the Commission Secretary, Mari Ann Winters. In her thoughtful, gracious way, she had enormous impact at MoDOT. She set the bar for outstanding customer service. She was an example of how we should treat each other and the citizens of the state. And her presence made clear to other women that if we had the right stuff, we had a place in the leadership of MoDOT.

In less than two decades, we have completely changed the makeup of our senior management team. We have women leaders in every discipline. And our contributions have added immeasurably to Team MoDOT's success.

We've all heard the saying, "If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." That was true in my home when I was growing up. Sometimes I think of myself as "mama" at MoDOT, and the awesome women at MoDOT is something that makes me happy. We can still improve. We especially need to work on lingering culture issues...like treating everyone with respect. But congratulations for the changes we have made. Women have made MoDOT stronger, smarter, better.

Thank you to all of Team MoDOT for the amazing work you do day in and day out. Now go say thank you to a woman you admire.

CONNECT WITH OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE

?

EAC

EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

What you do today
can improve all
your tomorrows.
~ Ralph Marston ~

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

New Access to Webmail and Archived Email

Looking for an email that is no longer in Outlook or needing access to Outlook via the web? The MoDOT Webmail button on the homepage has now been changed to MoDOT Email. This is an area that you can use to access Outlook from a web browser, or lookup an older email.

The page contains three links: Outlook Webmail, Outlook email Archive, and Lotus Notes Email Archive.

Outlook Webmail is a link that will take you to the Outlook Web App (OWA) and allows employees to access Outlook using a web browser. The application can be accessed by any computer with Internet access by going to <https://webmail.modot.mo.gov/owa>. Employees' network user IDs and passwords are needed to gain access.

Outlook Email Archive allows you to search email received in Outlook. Your user ID and network password will be required to login.

The Lotus Notes Email Archive allows you to lookup Lotus Notes email. Your network user ID and webmail password is required. In some cases a user's webmail password might be the same as the password used for Lotus Notes, but that may not always be the case. If assistance logging into Lotus Notes Email Archive is needed, employees should contact IS Service Desk.



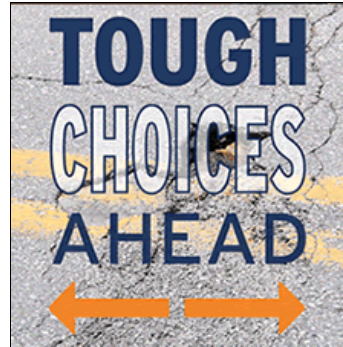
Also, a 10 day retention policy will be enabled on the items in your deleted items folder in the coming weeks. When enabled, this policy will mark email for removal 10 days from the day it entered the folder. Example: This item will expire in nine days.

For questions about email or the retention policy for Deleted Items, please contact the Information Systems Service Desk at (573) 751-5000.

Tough Choices Ahead - Information for Employees

We talk about honoring our commitments. Does focusing on primary roads and bridges honor those gas tax increase commitments that have been made over the years?

Yes, we are still honoring our commitments. The legacy we live with is maintaining a highway system that's grown. Missouri's highway system is the seventh largest in the nation, yet we rank 46th in funding per mile. And with a construction budget that's too small to take care of the entire system, it's a zero sum game. If you transfer a route from the supplementary roadway system, that means another primary route has to drop off.



Are we looking at ways to transfer ownership of some state routes to other entities?

We'd gladly transfer roads to other cities or counties in the state, but the reality is local municipalities don't have adequate funding for transportation either.

What are we doing to find sufficient funding for transportation?

MoDOT leadership continues to talk to the legislature and key stakeholders regarding Missouri's transportation funding crisis. You can help by learning about the key issues and asking the tough questions. Discuss the issues with your family and friends so they understand what this means for all Missourians.

Highway Safety Campaigns

by Kelly Jackson

Choose Your Ride This St. Patrick's Day Statewide Impaired Driving Crackdown Planned

If you're planning a special celebration for St. Patrick's Day, think first about a safe and sober ride home. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety reminds motorists to "Choose Your Ride" with special campaign to designate a driver, call a cab, or the options can include a ride in a patrol car, or even worse - a hearse.

More than 200 Missouri law enforcement agencies will take part in a special impaired driving crackdown that puts additional officers on the road March 14-17. If you choose to drive impaired over the St. Patrick's Day holiday,



taxi. However, the alternative options of a patrol car or a hearse are sobering reminders of the consequences of choosing the wrong ride.

Drinking and driving is a lethal combination. A person who causes a fatal crash while intoxicated can be charged with involuntary manslaughter, a felony resulting in up to seven years of prison time, a \$5000 fine, or both.

To learn more, visit the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety website at saveMOLives.com, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter at Save MO Lives.

your luck will run out. Throughout March, safety advertising in restaurants and bars across Missouri serve as reminders of the importance of choosing a completely sober ride, such as a

Buckle Up. It's No Joke.
Teen Seatbelt Campaign Enforces State Law

Warm weather will be here soon and teens will hit the road to enjoy spring break, prom, and other great springtime activities.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants teens to think about how dangerous a car ride can be if they don't buckle up. An element of this year's teen seat belt campaign reminds teens that their safety is to be taken very seriously - "Buckle Up. It's No Joke."

Teens are most likely to follow parental example. Parents who buckle up on a regular basis have kids that make the same safe choice. Under Missouri's Graduated Driver License Law, permit drivers and all passengers must wear safety belts.



Nearly seven out of 10 vehicle occupants killed in Missouri traffic crashes in the past three years were unbuckled. When evaluating teen vehicle occupants, nearly eight out of 10 were unbuckled.

For more information visit saveMOLives.com, or find us on Facebook and Twitter at Save MO Lives. Buckle up and ARRIVE ALIVE.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



Discounted Cardinal Tickets for State Employee Recognition Week

The St. Louis Cardinals will host Missouri State Employee Day on Sunday, June 14 in honor of State Employee Recognition Week, June 8-12.

Tickets for the Cardinals versus Royals game are only \$18 and include a hot dog and soda voucher. See the flier to learn more – [Cardinals' Baseball](#).

Also in honor of the week, an event is being planned for June 11 on the Capitol grounds in Jefferson City. Watch for more details coming soon about this special week - [State Employees Recognition Week](#).



EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's January meeting have been posted on the EAC website at [January 2015 EAC Minutes.pdf](#). If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



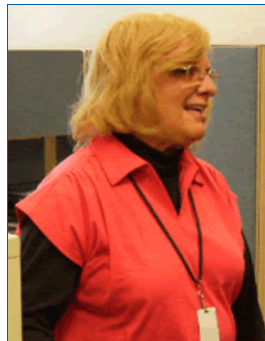
Deferred Compensation Update

Take a look at this month's Deferred Compensation update video. Some of the topics in this month's video are: financial advisor solicitations, tax fraud, and the difference between the deferred compensation plan and an IRA. Watch here – [Deferred Comp Video](#).



Free Training for State Employees

Expand your job skills with a library resource training session. A professional information navigator will guide you in a hands-on experience using information resources. All resources covered in class are available at no cost to state employees, and can be used from work or on the go. Check out the class offerings - [Training Opportunities](#).



Being Healthy Can Help You Win Big

Wondering what this Southwest District employee is smiling about? Check out her story on the [Southwest District Connections Page](#) about MoDOT's Wellness Incentive Program sponsored by Coventry Health Care.

AASHTO Challenges Americans to Think Big

Recently the American Association of Highways and Transportation Officials unveiled a new national outreach campaign that challenges American to think big and share responsibility of investing in



transportation.

The campaign was unveiled during AASHTO's annual winter briefing in Washington. Click here to watch the video that launched the campaign - <http://youtu.be/NPobRew5HI0>.



Teamwork at Its Best

Severe winter weather conditions last month caused several multi-vehicle crashes closing lanes on I-44. Read how teamwork between MoDOT and several other organizations helped get the lanes reopened to traffic – [Central District Connections Page](#).

March Service Anniversaries

30 Years
Duane L. Kliethermes - CD
Russell Dean Yarnell - CD
Stefan Sumowski - CD
Cynthia J. Coleman - SL

25 Years
Albert Leo Janssens - KC
Ricardo R. Ramirez - CD
Jeff Barnhouse - SW
Tony J. Gates - SW
Roy D. Stoddard - SW
Jeffrey Craig Mabury - SE
Tammy Jane Stallings - SE
Micheal W. Hyslop - SE
Todd M. Grosvenor - CO

20 Years
Timothy A. Drew - NW
David K. Blundell - NW
Shelie A. Daniel - KC
Norbert T. Dickneite - CD
Gary Joseph Gerlemann - SL
Jamie Lynn Sartin - SW
Elizabeth Ann Pasley – CO

15 Years
Daren Lee Meyer - NW
Charles H. Schumann - NE
Scotty D. Melton - KC
Richard W. Shipley - KC
Justin B. Jeffries - SW
Michael T. McCormick - SW
Randall Mark Morgan - SW
Billy Ray Schnauffer - SW
Jeffrey Paul Taylor - SW
Jackie William Gardner - SW
Kevin Lee Tinker - SE
Gregory Scott Hinton - SE
Jeffrey Louis Leible - SE
Jerry Lee Lewis - SE
Terry L. Sanders - SE
Billy L. Griffin - SE
James Douglas Stewart - CO
Christopher J. Ritoch – CO

10 Years
Nathan G. King - NW
Corey E. Cross - NW
James Roe Eivins - NW
Monte R. Basinger - NE
Aubrey Wayne Stidham - NE
John J. Huber - NE
Charles Lee Hill - NE
Lawrence Wilson Nevels - KC
Michael K. Montgomery - CD
Clifford Shannon - SE
Tim P. Acord - SE
Anup Kumar Choudhury - CO
Mindy D. Grapes-Bess - CO

5 Years
Bryan K. Craig - NW
Jacob M. Weaver - NW
Dameon Ki Ellis - NW
Homer Calvin Busse - NE
Todd Aaron Brown - CD
Megan Joanna Denkler - CO

Connections

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:





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PPE Vending Machine Now at Central Office

The PPE vending machine has been installed at 830 MoDOT Drive in the pool vehicle checkout location. The vending machine is stocked and available to all MoDOT employees.



To obtain items, employees will need to enter their fuel pin number and then select the item slot number.

Items Currently Available in the Vending Machine:

- leather work gloves
- brown jersey work gloves
- clear and tinted safety glasses
- AA batteries
- D batteries
- duct tape
- flash light
- hard hats and liners
- hi-visibility vests
- hi visibility long and short sleeve t-shirts (sizes available – medium to 4XL)

If you have suggestions for other common use items that would be beneficial to stock in the vending machine, contact Missy Lackman at melissa.lackman@modot.mo.gov or 573-522-1544.

March Health and Safety Tips Severe Weather Awareness

by Evan Adrian

March 2-7 was severe weather awareness week. Most employees practiced what to do in case of a tornado or other severe weather emergency during the mock tornado drill. As we move into spring, it's important to take a moment to review the signs of a tornado and the best ways to stay safe in case you get caught in one.

Please take a moment to review the information below. SEMA also offers more details on their website: <http://stormaware.mo.gov/when-a-tornado-strikes/>.

Signs of a tornado:

- Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base.
- Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base - tornadoes sometimes have no funnel.
- Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen.
- Day or night - loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.
- Night - small, bright, blue-green to white flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm. These mean power lines are being snapped by very strong wind, maybe a tornado.
- Night - persistent lowering from the cloud base,

illuminated or silhouetted by lightning - especially if it is on the ground or there is a blue-green-white power flash underneath.



What to do during a tornado:

In a building: Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building, away from glass and on the lowest floor possible. Then, crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly. Stay off the elevators; you could be trapped in them if the power is lost.

In a car or truck: Vehicles are extremely risky in a tornado. There is no safe option when caught in a tornado in a car, just slightly less dangerous ones. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Seek shelter in a sturdy building, or underground if possible. If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible, out of the traffic lanes. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

Central Office Happenings



MeeZone Event

Alzheimer's - Onset Clues and How to Help

By Janie Bonham of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Missouri Chapter
March 17 – 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
601 West Main, Training Room B
or via video conference

Would you like to know more about the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's, and how you can help someone with this disease? Sign up for this MeeZone event.

Space is limited for the in-person class at Central Office, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#), or

contact Amanda Henley at 573-526-5617 for video conferencing.



First Aid /CPR /AED Classes

Friday, March 20
8 to 11:30 a.m.
12 to 3:30 p.m.
601 West Main Street in Training Room B

Space is limited, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#) (LMS Course Code 24597 titled First Aid/CPR – Infant & CPR/AED – Adult & Child.)



Upcoming Blood Drive Opportunities

- March 4 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Capitol Building – 3rd Floor Rotunda
- March 17 and 18 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Truman Building - 4th Floor Auditorium
- March 20 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral
- March 24 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Truman Building - 4th Floor Auditorium

Papa John’s pizza will be provided starting at 11a.m. for all presenting donors!

Make your blood donation count towards the State Employee Departmental Challenge!!!

Each time you give at a state employee blood drive, you have the opportunity to credit your department for your blood donation. A tally will be kept throughout the blood drives and results will be sent out afterward.

Make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org. Enter sponsor code: MoState
For additional questions, please contact Amanda Schlottach - amanda.schlottach@redcross.org.

For eligibility questions, call the Red Cross at (866) 236-3276 or [click here](#).

Help you make your donation experience as safe, successful and pleasant as possible by following a few [recommendations](#).

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Northwest District

Battle of the Belt - It Only Takes One

The Northwest District really came through in this year's Battle of the Belt completion with not one, but two 100 percent schools! More than 30 schools throughout our region signed up for this year's seatbelt awareness campaign and competition. Each school was required to conduct two surprise seatbelt checks, one before and one after a six-week educational campaign on the benefits of buckling up.



Battle of the Belt

Green City High School and Northwestern High School (Mendon) will both receive a banner and a \$500 check for having 100 percent of students buckled up during their second seatbelt check. Bucklin High School and North Harrison High School (Eagleville) came in a close second with 98.36 percent

and 95.45 percent, respectively. Both Bucklin and North Harrison will receive a silver award banner to recognize reaching such high numbers. Finally, Linn County High School (Purdin) will receive a \$500 check for being the most improved school in Northwest Missouri. At their first seatbelt check, only 44 percent of their students were buckled in. After their educational efforts, 68 percent of their students were buckled up during their second check. All five of the schools will be recognized in award ceremonies in the next few weeks.

But this is the last year of Battle of the Belt. It's not going away, but it has been completely revamped, for many reasons. Only 14 of the Northwest Missouri schools enrolled in the program completed both checks and filled out online forms to be considered for the awards for our region. The Battle of the Belt has been held every fall with this year's competition running from Oct. 1 through Nov. 19. This is a very busy time for high schools with sports, extra curricular activities and academics. Trying to fit in a seatbelt education campaign is often difficult with so many things going on and often schools are unable to meet the program requirements in that short amount of time.



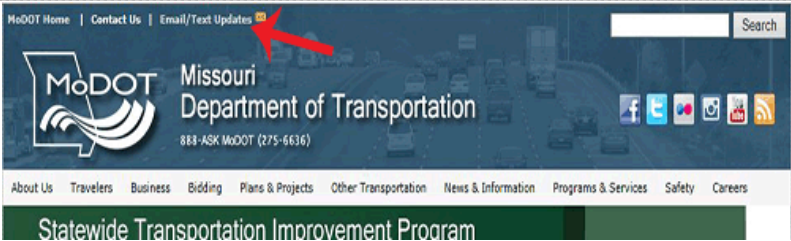
Also, seatbelt use in Missouri has remained well below the nationwide average of 87 percent. Missourians only buckle up 79 percent of the time. In 2013, teen seatbelt use was only 67 percent and out of the 64 teens killed in traffic crashes across Missouri, 71 percent were unbelted. If you're involved in a crash and you're unbelted, your odds of dying are one in 32. Just by taking a few moments to correctly secure your seatbelt lowers your chance to one in 1,329. And buckling up is not the only way to increase your odds of surviving a crash. Eliminating distractions, not drinking and driving, not driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and practicing safer driving behaviors all factor in to survival rates.

These all add up to the It Only Takes One campaign which will be rolled out for next school year. It will be a longer program that continues the safety messages throughout the year but also cover more topics than seatbelt use. Look for more information later this year or contact Senior Customer Service Representative Lisa Kellison, our It Only Takes One coordinator for the Northwest District.

Sign Up For Job Postings

Did you know you can receive emails about job postings in your area? Maybe you're looking to move to a different position or work location, or you have a friend who would like to begin working at MoDOT. You don't have to constantly check the website for job openings - you can have them sent to your email! Here's how:

Step 1: Go to www.modot.org and click on Email/Text Updates at the top of the page.



Step 2: If you've never signed up for E-updates click on new subscriber. If you're already receiving E-updates, but want to modify the content your receiving, fill out the returning subscriber fields. If you can't remember your Customer ID and Password, don't worry. Contact your Customer Relations department and they can look it up for you.



Step 3: Fill out the subscriber information, choosing a user ID and password, if it's your first time signing up. If you're a returning subscriber, the fields with a red asterisk should already be filled in. Below the basic information is where you select the information you'd like to receive. This subscriber has chosen to receive information about projects in all counties in the Northwest District and a few in the Northeast District.

MoDOT Home |



Missouri
Department of Transportation
888-ASK MoDOT (275-4634)



Unsubscribe

Subscriber Information

Account Info

(Required fields marked by red asterisk [*])

User ID:

E-name or organization is required.

Password:

First Name:

Last Name:

Confirm Password:

Company/Org:

Email:

Address 1:

Phone:

Address 2:

Fax #:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Do you wish to receive text alerts for incidents and emergency closings? (Data rates may apply)

Cell #:

Cell Carrier:

☒ I want to receive email updates

☐ I want to receive text alerts.

Other email notification services:

KC Scout

Gateway Guide

District Selection: (Use these links to quickly move to a district.)

Statewide

Northwest District

Northeast District

Kansas City District

Central District

St Louis District

Southwest District

Southeast District

Topic of Interest: (Use these links to quickly move to a topic.)

Motor Carrier

Engineering Policy

Career Opportunities

1270 & Dorsett/Page Project

MoDOT Property For Sale

Statewide

By subscribing to statewide information, you will receive news releases that are generated from MoDOT's Central Office in Jefferson City. By selecting only statewide, you will not receive project or county specific information. This must be done by selecting a specific county/project below.

☐ Connections - MoDOT's Employee Newsletter

☐ Statewide

Northwest District

County

☒ Andrew

☒ Atchison

☒ Buchanan

☒ Caldwell

☒ Carroll

☒ Chariton

☒ Clinton

☒ Daviess

☒ De Kalb

☒ Denton

☒ Grundy

☒ Harrison

☒ Holt

☒ Linn

☒ Livingston

☒ Mercer

☒ Nodaway

☒ Putnam

☒ Sullivan

☒ Worth

Routes And Projects

☒ Highway 26

☒ Interstate 29

☒ Interstate 35

Northeast District

County

☒ Adair

☐ Audrain

☐ Clark

☐ Knox

☐ Lewis

☐ Lincoln

☒ Macon

☐ Marion

☐ Monroe

☐ Montgomery

Step 4: Towards the bottom of the subscriptions is the Career Opportunities section. Click the box beside the districts from which you'd like to receive job opening notifications.

Engineering Policy

☐ Bid Items

☐ Engineering Policy Guide (EPG)

☐ Job Special Provisions

☐ LPA Manual (BPG 136)

☐ Standard Plans

☐ Standard Specifications

Career Opportunities

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☐ Kansas City District

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For more info
Marcia Johnson

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And the Northeast District Innovations Challenge Winners Are...

Congratulations to the 2014 Northeast District Innovations Challenge Winners! Creative employees from all over the Northeast District have designed and worked on processes that could potentially transform our workplace to operate more efficiently and safely.

After second round evaluations were completed, three teams are getting prepared to represent the Northeast District at the Innovations Showcase in Springfield next month. The second-round included the statewide survey ratings by district coordinators and a review by a technical panel in the Central Office. Based upon those evaluations, the innovations that will be presented in Springfield are:



Stow Assist Light by Daniel Koch and Steve Teter (category: Tools & Equipment)
The mounted light assembly allows the operator of an aerial truck to know when the turret and boom are properly aligned to safely lower into the boom rest without causing damage to the unit.



Temporary Mailboxes by Ed Hess (category: Productivity)
A readily available temporary mailbox to be used when mailboxes are damaged during snow events. No disruption of mail service for the homeowner and allows crews time to notify Dig-Rite and/or the flexibility to do a permanent fix on a better day.



Median Barrier Wall Modification by Jerad Noland, Keith Killen, Macy Rodenbaugh, Greg Sanders (BR), Andy Long, Rick Domzalski, Nick Gibbons, Bob Davidson, Jason Blomberg, Joe Jones (DE) (category: Projects)
Improves the overall design and implementation process associated with the replacement of Type A median barrier wall sections. This innovation utilizes the existing Type A barrier system as a "core structure" for a new Type C barrier system by encapsulating the existing barrier with a slip-forming process.

Although not chosen to attend the Showcase, there were several other innovative district winners. Those included:

Productivity – Snow removal sheet by Mike Flake and Carla Glosemeyer; Spray system by Harold Jones; Snow chain organizer by Billie Noble.

Tools and Equipment – Partial paver by Gavin Poe and Richard Hyde; Culvert pipe straightener by Bruce Bryson, David Powell and Dennis Matthews; Telspar base cleaner by Roger Page, Clyde Dunker and Tim Inman; Devon's super

jetter by Devon Muehring and Josh Chinn; Glow sticks by Doug Bigsby; Steel wheel by Adam Thompson; Telspar template by Stephen Garrett, Bruce Bryson, David Powell and Cory Burton

“We had several submissions this year from across the district and they were all great ideas, making the decisions tough for the team,” explained Amy Crawford, north area engineer and coordinator for the Northeast District Innovations Challenge.

We appreciate the hard work and commitment from our co-workers who have created and implemented innovative programs, practices, partnerships, policies, and activities that improve MoDOT's ability to serve our customers.

Around the District...



Palmyra High School held an Arrive Alive Night during one of their district basketball games. Students could be seen wearing their Arrive Alive t-shirts and sunglasses.



Brandi Baldwin, district utilities engineer, gave a presentation during the STEAM Summit that was held on March 5 in Kirksville.

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Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

When it comes to safety on the roadways of Kansas City, one could argue that two groups of people at MoDOT’s Kansas City office stand out the most.

Inside a room that looks more like the control center at the NASA Space program, you will find Customer Service Representatives and Traffic Systems Operators.

These very attentive people are carefully watching a wall of video monitors and dual-screen computers on their desks. Their task at hand is to monitor traffic in Kansas City, across the state of Missouri and to answer customer service calls from the public about road hazards, road conditions and road closures.



This group makes sure those issues on the roads are resolved immediately by the right departments externally and within MoDOT. One internal group is the Emergency Response Operators, formerly known as Motorist Assist.

Lori Ferguson has the distinction of being both a Traffic Systems Operator and a Customer Service Representative at MoDOT. She says when one group is down a staff member; she can step right in and help out.

Ferguson admits, “I love my job, I’m helping the public, I’m helping my community and I’m helping them travel the roads safely.”

By her count, Ferguson says that she receives about 40 to 50 calls a day, which range from typical road obstructions such as automotive parts, furniture to deceased animals.

Ferguson recounts how passionate local citizens can become when they see an injured or deceased animal on the road. “They will call and want that situation handled immediately,” Ferguson says.

Part of the job of being a customer service representative also means generating “call reports”. Ferguson says that these reports are handed off to other staff members within MoDOT such as Maintenance, Construction, Traffic and Customer Relations. Those groups then follow up the reports to ensure that customers are satisfied.

In addition to working with internal MoDOT departments, Ferguson says she also works hand in hand with the city of Kansas City, such as with the police department and other emergency services.

Annually, Customer Service will receive about 24 thousand calls. Given that it’s a 24/7 service, that number is understandable and no doubt appreciated by the citizens of Kansas City and the state of Missouri.

KC Scout Cultivates Bi-State Partnerships to Improve Safety and Traffic Management on Kansas Interstates

Sometimes the messages on KC Scout boards across Kansas are not actually posted by KC Scout. Thanks to innovations in technology and growing relationships, transportation organizations in Kansas can activate those dynamic message sign (DMS) boards to help move traffic, share incident updates or spread safety messages.

With Scout’s improved technology platform, agencies such as Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), Kansas Department of Transportation’s ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) team and senior Kansas Highway Patrol officials have the capability to activate dynamic message signs and coordinate with Scout’s 24/7 Transportation Management Center in Lee’s Summit. In addition they can use secure logins for Scout’s web-based Video Distribution System (VDS) application which gives wireless access to KS cameras and DMS control anytime, anywhere.



Kansas Highway Patrol often uses DMS boards for special Speedway event activity during races in Wyandotte County. KTA might want to activate message boards in conjunction with specific Safety Campaigns along the turnpike. KDOT might want to activate boards for unscheduled roadwork due to emergency repairs. KHP supervisors might use the VDS mobile application to monitor concurrent traffic incidents in their jurisdiction.

“Until the VDS option became available, the highway patrol would contact Scout to report an incident and request appropriate DMS messaging,” said Randy Johnson, Manager of KC Scout. “They still prefer for Scout to take the lead in creating, monitoring and clearing events that they report, but the ability to use a secure, web-based application gives them priority access separate from the general public’s view of our website.”

Part of cultivating these relationships includes ongoing meetings, training and brainstorming ways to continue improving these services. KC Scout staff recently traveled to the KTA headquarters in Wichita for a joint meeting with KTA, KDOT and Kansas Highway Patrol.

The team facilitated discussions to further enhance collaboration and Scout’s role in supporting these diverse agencies with the mutual missions of providing timely and accurate road condition and incident safety messaging across the bi-state region.

Learn more about KC Scout at www.kscout.net. Or follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/KansasCityScout.

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MoDOT Helps to Clear Snowy I-44 Crashes

Teamwork played a huge role in clearing a trio of multi-vehicle crashes on Interstate 44 during the snowy weekend of Feb. 28.

The collective responsiveness and skills of MoDOT, the Missouri Highway Patrol and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, as well as local fire departments, were on display as the organizations worked together to reopen one of Missouri's major arteries in the midst of a winter snow event.

The first crash on I-44 took place at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 28 at mile marker 143 near the Gasconade River bridge in Laclede County. That crash and a secondary crash at mile marker 137 closed all eastbound lanes until 4 p.m. MoDOT crews and Highway Patrol officers were on the scene quickly and worked hard to clear the roadway as fast and safely as possible.

The third crash occurred at about 1:30 p.m. in Phelps County at mile marker 184. This crash was larger in scope and involved a hazardous material spill in addition to the accumulated snow on the ground.

Approximately 50 vehicles were involved in the crash, including nine tractor trailers – one of which was hauling a hazardous material. MoDOT, the Highway Patrol and the Department of Natural Resources coordinated to get the accident cleaned up and traffic flowing again on I-44 by the evening of March 1.

MoDOT EOC and Customer Relations staff also worked around the clock to inform the public about the interstate closure and the progress of the cleanup effort.

"I'm proud of the way our organizations were able to work together to respond to these incidents," said Central District Engineer David Silvester. "These crashes were quite a challenge - particularly the crash in Phelps County - due to the scope, the hazardous material present and the snow on the ground, but we were up to the challenge and everyone did a great job."

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols also expressed his thanks to all of the MoDOT employees who played a role in the I-44 response in his report to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on March 10 in Jefferson City.



Thanks Roll In from Customers & Officials

Our customers sent a flood of "thank you" notes via social media and the web praising our efforts during the recent snow storms in late February, including:

- State Representative Jeff Pogue (Dent County), who wanted to pass along his thanks for all the work MoDOT does to keep the roadways safe during snow storms.

He also mentioned he was very pleased with the MoDOT response in the Salem area over the weekend.

- Mayor Dennis Wilson of St. James, who expressed his thanks for the condition of the state roadways leading to Meramec Springs park for opening day of trout season. He said many folks were grumbling about the weather but everyone was pleased with the job MoDOT did on the roadways.



Maintenance staff from across the Central District have been going through the "21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" program. This training included maintenance supervisors, assistant maintenance supervisors and maintenance crew leaders who discussed qualities of leadership and key leadership principles.

Baby Bob Snowman Doppelganger?



Senior Financial Services Specialist Robin McKee's son Gaven made this snowman during a recent snowfall. He bears a remarkable resemblance to our own Baby Bob, don't you think?

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Crew Leader Earns Safety Recognition for January

Safety means a lot more to Festus crew leader Jerry Lyston than a routine workgroup discussion. To Lyston, it is a work vow. Because of his passion to keep his environment and work equipment safe, he has earned safety recognition for January.

Part of Lyston’s daily work routine consists of him talking to his coworkers about their personal protective equipment (PPE), how to keep a clean work area and safety work practices.

“Jerry is a very motivated employee who is willing to help improve the safety of any operation. He even takes out the time to make sure emergency snow employees have everything they need during snow operations,” said Judy Wagner, Jefferson County area engineer.

Lyston also cares a lot about the maintenance and safety of the work equipment. He makes sure that every employee in the building receives training on how to operate the maintenance equipment.

“Jerry’s passion about safety and the care of our equipment speaks volumes. He sets a great example in our building and is very deserving of this recognition,” said David Herzog, Festus assistant supervisor.

In addition to the recognition, Lyston will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and a Safety Employee of the Month certificate.



Around the District...



Andy Tuerck (sitting next to display) speaks with eighth graders about civil engineering at a school career day event at the Auto Kemp Museum in Chesterfield on Feb. 24. Tuerck was one of six MoDOT employees to participate in the event.



Motorist Assist Operator Rodney Herd (left) is honored by Greg Horn (right) at the staff meeting on Feb. 24 for receiving a letter from a stranded couple he helped on the highway. The letter describes his actions as heroic.

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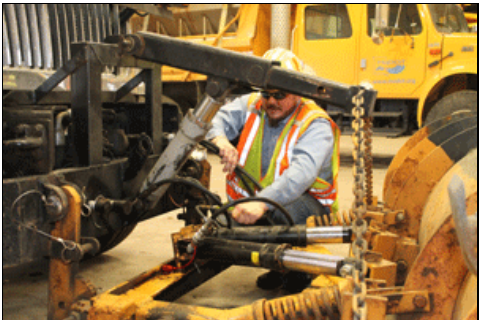
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Southwest District at Work



ROAD REPAIR – Mt. Vernon Senior Maintenance Worker William Thomas uses asphalt to repair the edge of the I-44 outer road in Lawrence County west of Mt. Vernon. (Photo/David Mitchell)



CHECKING CONNECTIONS – Joplin Maintenance Worker Ray Lovatt double checks the connections on a snow plow ahead of the March 3 snow. (Photo/David Mitchell)



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT – District General Services Manager John Sinclair (red jacket) takes part in the statewide earthquake drill Feb. 26. Members of the district response team gathered in the basement of the District Office to react to an earthquake scenario centered along the New Madrid Fault in southeast Missouri. (Photo/David Mitchell)



TORNADO DRILL – District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry (left) explains how to shut off electricity to the District Office during the statewide tornado drill March 3. (Photo/Angela Eden)



OUT WITH THE OLD – Contractor crews clear away the remains of the south half of the Battlefield Road bridge over Route 65 in east Springfield on March 8. The bridge is being replaced one-half at a time to make way for a new higher and slightly wider bridge.



ROUNDABOUT FAQ – Several roundabouts have been built in the Southwest District in recent years prompting frequent questions from customers. District Traffic Engineer Joe Rickman answers some common ones in a recent video produced by the

Battlefield Road is being converted to a diverging diamond over Route 65. (Photo/Brad Gripka)

district. Click the image above to see the video.

District Maintenance Worker Recognized for Assisting Driver

by David Mitchell

The morning of Jan. 21 was a busy one for maintenance workers in McDonald County. A thick fog was freezing on road surfaces, making for dangerous driving conditions.

Little did Anderson Senior Maintenance Worker Ron Green know, he would soon come face to face with the consequences of those dangerous roads, coming to the rescue of a driver.

District leaders later recognized him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his actions on that slick highway.

“That was a day when black ice was everywhere,” said Anderson Maintenance Supervisor John Allison. “You never knew where someone was going to slide off.”

Allison sent Green out in a MoDOT truck that morning to treat slick spots on Route CC.

At about 7:30 a.m., Green discovered a car crashed into a tree in a valley just south of McNatt.

The driver was out of her car, sitting in a ditch with deep cuts on one arm and a leg.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol crash report, the driver, a 45-year old woman from Stella, lost control of her vehicle on the ice.

“I just thought I needed to do my part as a MoDOT employee,” said Green, “to see if I could be of any assistance.”

Green realized he needed to call an ambulance but had to climb back up the hill to get a good cell signal.

“She said to me, ‘You’re coming back, aren’t you?’” Green said. “I told her I was. I thought she was about to go into shock. That was what I was afraid of.”

He returned after calling for the ambulance and stayed with her, talking to her and keeping her warm and calm until help arrived.

Allison nominated Green for recognition, which he received at the Southwest District Management Team meeting on Feb. 25.

“I was kind of shocked. John kept me in the dark,” said Green. “He told me a month before (to be at the management meeting). I worried about what this was about that whole time!”



Anderson Senior Maintenance Worker Ron Green receives a Certificate of Appreciation from District Engineer Becky Baltz Feb. 25. (Photo/Jennifer Williams)

Southwest District Employee Wins Raffle for Flat Screen TV from Coventry Health Care

by Robin Gammon, Coventry Health Care/David Mitchell

Senior Financial Services Technician Helen Brumitt understands the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. What she didn't expect was that focus would mean she'd soon be watching a brand new 50-inch high definition, smart television.

Helen won the TV as part of the statewide 2014 Wellness Incentive Program sponsored by Coventry Health Care. She was entered into a raffle for the television for participating in the program.

“I was excited! We do not have a flat screen TV,” Helen said. “Now, I can be at my own home theater every night of the week if I want.”

MoDOT employees who took part in program were required to complete four health



Senior Financial Services Technician Helen Brumitt. (Photo / Tommy Nunn)

activities for which they received a \$50 gift card. Helen used her card to buy a wedding gift for a family member.

The four health activities included filling out a health-risk assessment, certifying no tobacco products use, completing an annual preventive-care doctor visit and getting a flu shot.

“I decided to take part in the wellness program because my health is the most important aspect of my life,” Helen said. “I liked filling out the assessment because it gave me a chance to think about what I was or was not doing that would contribute to a healthy lifestyle.”

Another wellness incentive package is planned for 2015. It will be rolled out soon.

Brumitt encourages all employees to take part in the wellness incentive.

“The program keeps you on track and the rewards are never ending. It also is nice to get a \$50 reward card, too, for completing the program,” she said.

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Paying It Forward

Inman's Act of Kindness Leaves Lasting Impression



Senior Materials Inspector
Shannon Inman

When asked, Senior Materials Inspector Shannon Inman describes his act of kindness during one of the SE District's recent winter storms as just "paying it forward." But to Mr. Gary Whitlow, who was traveling from St. Louis to Arkansas to see his family, Inman's actions left a lasting impression.

Whitlow was traveling though Bonne Terre on March 4 when he lost control of his vehicle. His vehicle went down a steep embankment before coming to rest along the concrete area used for drainage.

"I saw the brake lights come on, and I realized someone was inside," said Inman.

He described that while he didn't see the wreck occur, he must have arrived just moments after. Once he realized the truck wasn't left from a previous incident, Inman immediately jumped in to help.

Through the sleet, Inman held open the wrecked vehicle's door and helped Whitlow to a safer place as they waited for law enforcement to arrive.

"Mr. Whitlow was a bit shaken up as it was a bad accident, but thankfully he was able to walk away with just a bump on the head and a few cuts from his shattered windshield," described Inman.

Inman said that his act of kindness was just "paying it forward," and he actually thought of his mother during the incident. During an earlier winter storm, Inman's mother was involved in an accident.

"Luckily, when I arrived, a nice couple had already stopped and let her get in their vehicle to calm down," said Inman. "I thought of what that meant to us to have strangers stop to make sure she was ok in such a stressful situation, and I paid it forward to Mr. Whitlow."

Whitlow certainly appreciated the act and even took time to send in a letter detailing the experience and his gratitude to Inman.

Mr. Whitlow's Letter:

On Wednesday, March 4th, I was driving south on Highway 67 at Bonne Terre in the snow when I lost control of my truck and flipped it down the embankment just past the overpass. One of your employees was there and let me warm up and try to clear the cobwebs out of my head in his truck until the police arrived. He even offered to drive me down the road to the urgent care center. I believe his first name was Shannon, but I didn't get his last. I just want him to know that I appreciate all he did for me that morning.

Gary Whitlow

Upcoming Project to Construct Roundabout in Jackson

Public Meeting April 9

The busy intersection of Route 61 and Main Street in Jackson will soon get an update to help traffic flow more smoothly. The City of Jackson and MoDOT have agreed that a roundabout is

the best fit for this location.

Improvements will include constructing a roundabout to improve traffic flow through town. In addition, there will be changes to the intersection of Washington Street and High Street.

Besides improving traffic flow and efficiency by reducing wait times, roundabouts also improve safety. Roundabouts have fewer conflict points, or spots where vehicles could collide, than signalized intersections. The reduced number of conflict points, combined with slower speeds and calmer traffic, has been found to reduce the number of severe crashes. Severe crashes typically occur with broadside (T-bone) or head on collisions.

Right of way acquisition will begin in late summer or early fall 2015. The project will be let in spring 2016, with construction underway in 2016. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2016.

During work, bypasses will be in place through staging phases. Periodic, short duration closures will occur through the course of the project as the legs of the roundabout are tied into the existing pavement.

A public meeting will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9 in the Missouri Room at Jackson City Hall. City Hall's Missouri Room is located on the west wing of the building off of North Missouri Street, with parking available at City Hall or along West Main and North Missouri Streets.



The City of Jackson and MoDOT have agreed to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Route 61 and Main Street.

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